What is claimed is:

1. A method of installing a network component or service on a computer comprising:

automatically loading the network component or service on

5    the computer in response to a process-initiating event; and

automatically binding an existing network adapter to the

network component or service.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically

10    rebooting the computer following said automatically binding.

3. The method of claim 1 including invoking a network

operating system to perform loading of the network component or

service on the computer.

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4. The method of claim 3 including using a binding engine of

the operating system to bind the existing network adapter to the

network component or service.

20    5. The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event

includes selecting a shortcut to a shared network location from

the computer.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event includes executing an operating system command line.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event is part of a software setup program execution.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event is part of a user login sequence to the computer.

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event is part of a mass deployment of the new network component or service.

10.   An apparatus comprising:

a network adapter; and

a processor configured to load a network component or service in the apparatus automatically in response to a process-initiating event and to bind the network adapter to the network component or service automatically.

11.   The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the processor is further configured to reboot the apparatus automatically after automatic binding.

12. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a network operating system, wherein the processor is further configured to invoke the network operating system to perform the automatic

5    loading of the network component or service.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the operating system comprises a binding engine that is utilized to bind the network adapter to the network component or service.

14. An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

automatically load a network component or service on a computer in response to a process-initiation event; and

automatically bind an existing network adapter to the network component or service.

15. The article of claim 14 further comprising computer-

20   executable instructions on the computer-readable medium for causing the computer system to automatically reboot the computer after binding.

16.    The article of claim 14 including instructions for causing a network operating system to be utilized to perform loading of the network component or service on the computer.

5    17.    The article of claim 16 including instructions for causing a binding engine of the network operating system to bind the existing network adapter to the network component or service.

18.    A computer system comprising:

10      a computer including a network adapter;

        a network component or service;

        a computer network that connects the computer to the network component or service; and

        a processor;

15      wherein the processor is configured to automatically load the network component or service on the computer in response to a process initiation event, and to automatically bind the network adapter to the network component or service.

20    19.    The computer system of claim 18 wherein the processor is further configured to automatically reboot the computer after binding.

20. The computer system of claim 18 further comprising a network operating system that is utilized by the processor to load the network component or service.

5  21. The computer system of claim 20 wherein the operating system comprises a binding engine that binds the network adapter to the network component or service.